MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
20 March, 1974

AM
10:00 *CONVENE, 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.*

ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings: 17 April, 1974
15 May, 1974

B. Minutes of February, 1974 meeting.

C. Joint Committee on Landmarks, Reappointments of Members.

D. Joint Committee on Landmarks, Amendments to Statement of Function and Membership.

E. Pennsylvania Avenue Plan - Status Report.

F. West End Development Plan - Report.

G. Shipstead-Luce Act Boundaries - Status Report.

H. Bicentennial Coinage, Final Design Selection - Report.

SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. <u>American Battle Monuments Commission</u>

Pershing Memorial, Pennsylvania Avenue and 15th Street, N.W.

B. <u>National Park Service, National Capital Parks</u>

1. Constitution Gardens, 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W. - Resubmission.

2. Peter Muhlenberg Memorial, 36th and Ellicott Streets, N.W.

C. <u>General Services Administration</u>

Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building, 17th and G Streets, N.W. - Final Site and Building Plans.

D. D.C. Government, Department of General Services

1. New D.C. Courthouse Facility, Indiana Avenue and C Street, N.W. and Sixth Street and Municipal Center.

2. Kenilworth-Parkside Recreation Center, Phase II Development, 40th and Anacostia Avenue, N.E.

E. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. SL 74-6, 2626 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. - Brick Sample Inspection for New Office Building - Report.

2. SL 74-12, 2555 M Street, N.W. - Brick Sample Inspection for New Office Building - Report.

3. SL 74-54, 101 Louisiana Avenue, N.W., United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Seven Levels of Parking and Four Levels Office Space on East End of Existing Headquarters Building - Report for Confirmation.

4. SL 74-56, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W. - National Academy of Sciences Building - Alterations.

5. Appendix 1.

Old Georgetown Act

Appendix 2.

F. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

Medal Commemorating the International Exposition on Environment to be held at Spokane, Washington from May to November, 1974.

INTERVIEWS

A. American Battle Monuments Commission

11:30 Pershing Memorial, Pennsylvania Avenue and 15th Street, N.W.

B. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

11:45 1. Constitution Gardens, 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.

12:00 2. Peter Muhlenberg Memorial, 36th and Ellicott Streets, N.W.

C. General Services Administration

12:15 Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building, 17th and G Streets, N.W. - Final Site and Building Plans.

D. D.C. Government, Department of General Services

12:30 1. New D.C. Courthouse Facility, Indiana Avenue and C Street, N.W. and Sixth Street and Municipal Center.

12:45 2. Kenilworth-Parkside Recreation Center, Phase II Development, 40th and Anacostia Avenue, N.E.

E. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

1:00 SL 74-56, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W. - National Academy of Sciences Building - Alterations.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
20 March, 1974

The meeting convened at 10:10 a.m. in the Commission of Fine Arts offices at 708 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C.

Members Present:	*Hon. J. Carter Brown, Chairman*
	Hon. Jane O. Dart
	Hon. Kevin Roche
	Hon. Chloethiel Woodard Smith
	Hon. Edward D. Stone, Jr.
	Hon. George A. Weymouth
Staff Present:	*Mr. Charles H. Atherton, Secretary*
	Mr. Donald B. Myer, Assistant Secretary
	Mr. William A. Bogan
	Mr. Jeffrey R. Carson
	Mr. J. L. Sibley Jennings, Jr.
	Mrs. Nancy N. Lusher
	Miss Lynda L. Smith
National Capital Planning Commission Staff Present:	*Mr. Ed Hromanick*
Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation Staff Present:	*Mr. John Woodbridge*

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Dates of next meetings: 17 April, 1974
15 May, 1974.

B. Minutes of February, 1974 meeting, approved.

C. Joint Committee on Landmarks, Reappointment of Members. The Secretary presented the names of Mrs. Constance M. Green, and Messers Nicholas Satterlee and Robert Plavnick for reappointment with the Staff's support. The Commission concurred and recommended reappointment of these members. EXHIBIT 1.

D. Joint Committee on Landmarks, Amendments to Statement of Function and Membership. The Assistant Secretary told of a recommendation by the National Capital Planning Commission that the Joint Committee's By-Laws be amended to permit them to publish appropriate public procedure. This would enable the Committee to have procedure with proper public

notice for designating landmarks and without undue "taking of property rights". The Commission approved the proviso.

E. Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation Plan, Status Report. The Chairman described the current status of the Plan, saying that the Corporation had approved it on March 18, 1974, and that it would be sent for approval or comment by the District Government and the Department of Interior. He stated that he had talked with Mr. Ben Gilbert, Chief of D.C. Planning and Management, and that Mr. Gilbert had suggested sending the Plan to the Commission of Fine Arts for advice as part of the District Government's review. The plan would properly be before the Commission at that time. The Chairman had requested a copy of the plan to exhibit during this meeting because two of the projects under review were in the plan area.

The Secretary told the members that Mr. John Woodbridge was attending the meeting to assist and provide liason between the Commission of Fine Arts and the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation.

The Assistant Secretary then quickly outlined some of the main features of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation's plan. These included: retention of the Willard and Washington Hotels; probable National Endowment use of the Old Post Office; retention of the Washington Star Building at 11th and Pennsylvania; and retention of the Apex Building at 7th and Pennsylvania. These "landmarks" would protrude into the avenue about fifty feet from the new building line proposed for the remainder of the Avenue. The plan eliminated the once controversial National Square and replaced it with a partly landscaped triangular Pershing Memorial, the design of which was considered later in the meeting. A significant new feature was a residential cluster at 8th and Pennsylvania Avenue.

The Assistant Secretary then mentioned a Pennsylvania Avenue paper which had been released by the City Government and sent to the Members. This paper was a critique and an effort at insuring consideration of certain alternatives as the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation's plan was sent to various agencies for comment. The paper was in harmony with retention of the landmarks mentioned above, but went beyond the PADC plan at Market Square, or 7th and Indiana Avenue, where it recommended retaining more of the old buildings.

Mr. Roche said that he felt Pennsylvania Avenue might get too much importance from the plan and that Constitution Avenue was slighted by the proposal. Mr. Stone moved that the Commission formally oppose the proposal which would tunnel in front of the National Gallery of Art and block the Constitution Avenue vista with trees along Pennsylvania Avenue. Duly seconded, the motion was unanimously carried, the Chairman abstaining.

The Pennsylvania Avenue Plan was discussed later in the meeting in connection with the Pershing Memorial and the D.C. Courthouse.

F. West End Development Plan - Report. The Assistant Secretary presented this report by the D.C. Planning and Management Office saying that it took in the perimeter of Rock Creek Park across from Georgetown and was an area in which the Commission had several projects in the recent past. The report recommended a higher desnity residential mixed use development with some light industry, commercial, and apartment residential. Some of the existing rowhouses were retained by the plan. The Assistant Secretary reminded the Commission of the Oliver Carr proposal for replacing the Sealtest Dairy at Pennsylvania Avenue and 26th Street, N.W., with a mixed commercial and office complex. The Commission had also recently reviewed a pair of small office buildings in this vicinity. The proposal did not alter the height or design substantially from the Park side of the community, but relied on additional residential uses to liven it up. Mr. Arroyo had recommended additional residential areas along the Park at the February meeting. The Staff planned to keep the Commission informed of the status of this plan and any proposed changes to the edge of the Park. Mr. Stone suggested that the West End might be considered for inclusion in the Shipstead-Luce area as part of the proposed boundary changes for the Act. This led on to the next subject of the meeting.

G. Shipstead-Luce Act Boundaries, Status Report. The Secretary reported on a meeting with the staff of the National Capital Planning Commission on the subject of revising the boundaries of the Shipstead-Luce Act to include more of the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation area, Downtown Renewal Area, Federal City College Campus, and the proposed Eisenhower Convention Center. He reported that the NCPC staff felt there were modest revisions possible to further protect Union Station and the National Visitor's Center. These proposed no problem for the Commission of Fine Arts' objective to provide a maximum visual protection for heavy government spending in the downtown area. On recommendation of the Secretary of NCPC a meeting would be held with the District of Columbia Corporation Counsel to discuss the legal defensibility of the boundary change in terms of the original legislation. Since NCPC would be asked by the District City Council to advise on the actual boundaries, this process would simplify action by the City Council. NCPC indicated that they felt certain additional areas should be studied for inclusion in the Shipstead-Luce Act, even if it would require legislative action. These additional areas would include more of the L'Enfant city and surely the major avenues, squares, and circles. This, it was agreed by the NCPC and CFA staffs would be another subject for another time. The Secretary also reported contact with the City Council staff on the matter, and a cooperative atmosphere with all other parties to date.

H. Bicentennial Coinage, Final Design Selection. The Secretary reported on a meeting with the Director of the Mint and various other high government officials to narrow down the twelve final designs to the winning three for use on the 25¢, 50¢, and dollar coins to be struck for the Bicentennial year. He reported that the designs with the Liberty Bell and Moon, and Independence Hall favored by the Commission of Fine Arts in February 1974 were selected. Another design with a revolutionary drummer, which the Commission had recommended against, was also selected over the Secretary's vote. The Secretary also suggested sending a letter to the Director of the Mint inviting her or her representative to the next Commission of Fine Arts meeting to discuss techniques of more efficiently reviewing all of the Mint designs as required by Executive Order. In the past, time had been a factor, because the Mint rarely had over a month from the time that they received a design to the time it was to be struck. It was suggested that the Chairman or staff could help with interim review to assist on the time factor. The consensus was that the members wanted to discuss techniques for improving the quality of American medallic art, whicl ensuring their maximum effectiveness under the provisions of the law.

II. SUBMISSIONS-REVIEWS

A. American Battle Monuments Commission

Pershing Memorial. The Secretary presented drawings, photographs, and a perspective depicting a pair of large stone slabs arranged at right angles at the Treasury end of Pennsylvania Avenue, set in a tree-lined park and featuring a statue of General Pershing. He explained that the concept of a National Square as a large paved space had been replaced by a more organic scheme to upgrade the paving, retain the Willard Hotel, and close the block of Pennsylvania Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets, N.W. to traffic. The Pershing Memorial would be in the triangular area between E Street, Pennsylvania Avenue, 14th, and 15th Streets, N.W. The Commission favored the geometric developments of the proposal and thought the green park idea was far superior to the large paved expanse of the original Pennsylvania Avenue scheme. The Commission, however, felt that the Pershing statue was far too small in scale, and that the stone slabs behind it were much too large. They further felt that the lettering on the slabs should be kept much smaller than proposed. The Secretary suggested that the slabs could be reduced and the lettering confined to a relatively small area. Perhaps the composition could be softened by adding a row of water jets in front of the western slab. Further discussion was held with the architect and project representatives later in the day.

B. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

1. Constitution Gardens, 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W. - Resubmission. The Assistant Secretary presented a series of drawings and photographs of this park proposed for an area recently cleared of temporary World War I era office buildings. The McMillan Commission had envisioned the area as a wooded park, now the redesign was more in line with that. Once before the Commission had reviewed a design for this park and disapproved it for being too complicated and too much like an amusement park. The now proposal was far more restrained with a small lake, and a meadow area, all surrounded by heavy hardwood tree cover. The only facilities would be walks plus a tour train route along Constitution Avenue. A park information-comfort-cafeteria structure was proposed on the edge of the lake. The Commission liked the revision very much, but questioned a curved driveway from 17th Street. Mr. Roche wondered if such a building would be necessary at all, saying he hoped that it would be a minimal intrusion within the woods and not visible from the rest of the Mall area. Further discussion was held later in the day with project representatives.

2. Peter Muhlenberg Memorial, 36th & Ellicott Streets, N.W. The Secretary presented drawings for this project which had been authorized in the 1920's and had never been built. The memorial consisted of a pool and fountain backed by a 14-foot high wall with a central bust of Peter Muhlenberg. Walks and ramps ran from a small surrounding plaza to the Connecticut Avenue front of the memorial. To the rear of the small traingular site was a proposed children's story garden. The Commission found the design overly directional and the back wall and other features unsuccessful. They recommended a lower design, perhaps a pool which could have a fountain and low plaques giving information on Muhlenberg. The members suggested a below-grade pump for the fountain or pool and elimination of the children's story garden.

C. General Services Administration

Federal Home Loan Bank Board Building, 17th & G Streets, N.W., Final Site and Building Plans. The Secretary reported that this project, which had been essentially approved at the February meeting, subject to detail refinement, had been withdrawn by GSA on short notice. He and the Assistant Secretary reported on the unique legal status of the project which had involved the demolition of several old buildings and was now under court action and soon to be subject of an Advisory Council on Historic Preservation hearing. Though the General Services Administration had been given the "go ahead" by the Joint Committee oh Landmarks and the National Capital Planning and Fine Arts Commissions, there were some preservation technicalities involving the old buildings. The project had

been halted by court order with half of the site cleared. The staff promised to keep the members informed.

D. D.C. Government, Department of General Services

1. New D.C. Courthouse Facility, Indiana Avenue and C Street, N.W., at the Municipal Center. The Secretary presented two models and drawings of this D.C. Court building, designed in a contemporary manner to fit into the master plan of Judiciary Square - symmetrically placed across John Marshall Place from the Municipal Center. Two office-courtroom elements were divided by a central skylit entry with open escalator connections to all floors. The Commission felt that the exterior of the building was overly complicated with various vertical and horizontal projections and bays. The Commission found an irresolution of the axis of Indiana Avenue between this project and the proposed Pennsylvania Avenue Plan. The Court Building had its facade angled in part to conform to the existing Indiana Avenue. The Pennsylvania Avenue scheme had Indiana Avenue shifted off axis about 100 feet to the north. Several alternative solutions to this axial problem were discussed, but further consideration was held off until an interview with project representatives later in the meeting.

2. Kenilworth-Parkside Recreation Center, Phase II Development, 40th and Anacostia Avenue, N.E. The Assistant Secretary presented drawings showing the master plan for this area of the Anacostia Park system, stating that the proposal conformed to all previous understandings. He pointed out that the proposal was the second phase of a project previously approved by the Commission. The Commission approved the project, with Mr. Stone suggesting that the proposed tricycle area was overly paved and that the tree planting between Phase I and Phase II was overly formal. He suggested that the trees between the projects be treated in an informal manner - not segregating the two areas. The Commission approved the project with those provisos.

E. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

1. S.L. 74-6, 2626 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. - Brick Sample for New Office Building. The Assistant Secretary told the Commission of an inspection of the proposed brick sample for this project which had been erected on the site. He reported that the brick was a light orange-pink color and that he and the Secretary had recommended a darker brownish brick. The Commission agreed with this action.

2. S.L. 74-12, 2555 M Street, N.W. - Brick Sample for New Office Building - Same action as S.L. 74-6.

3. S.L. 74-54, 101 Louisiana Avenue, N.W., United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Seven Levels of Parking and Four Levels of Office Space on East End of Existing Headquarters Building - Report for Confirmation. The Assistant Secretary showed the members a drawing of the First Street facade of this proposed addition. The project had been modified to conform with the Commission's previous suggestion that both the office and garage portions of the building be sheathed in matching marble as a single element. Since the architects had done precisely this the Commission concurred in the project's approval.

4. S.L. 74-56, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., National Academy of Sciences Building, Alterations to the Front Terrace and Parking Area. The Secretary presented drawings and photographs for these revisions to an existing building in the monumental area north of the Mall. The proposed terrace revisions were in the form of illumination of the steps and repairs, with no change to the building's original design. The parking area was to be organized and decreased in size to improve the landscaping at the east end of the building. The Secretary pointed out that the parking lot had spontaneously grown without regard to the approved plans for the building, which showed only a drive in the area of the parking lot. The Commission felt that they should discuss the program with project representatives later in the meeting.

5. Appendix 1, approved.

6. Regency Hyatt Hotel, 400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W. The Secretary showed the Commission proposed material samples for this new hotel within sight of the new National Visitor's Center and the U.S. Capitol. The dark Glass and square dark buff brick tile were approved by the Commission.

Old Georgetown Act

Appendix 2, approved.

F. Department of the Treasury, Bureau of the Mint

Medal Commemorating the International Exposition on Environment to be held in Spokane, Washington from May to November, 1974. The Commission approved this design reluctantly because use of the exposition's logo on one side of the medal did not lend itself to good design.

EXHIBIT 2.

III. INTERVIEWS

A. American Battle Monuments Commission

Pershing Memorial, Pennsylvania Avenue and 15th Street, N.W. The project was represented by General A. V. Adams, Col. W. P. Jones, and Mr. John F. Harbeson of the Battle Monuments Commission and Mr. W. K. Harrison, the architect. Mr. Harrison outlined the long process of the memorial's design stating that the size of the two stone panels had been revised substantially during discussions with the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation. He further stated that the design elements would require some further study, perhaps with full-sized on-site mockups. The Chairman told Mr. Harrison of the Commission's approval of the concept of making the memorial a green park element, rather than a large paved plaza, as had been once envisioned by the first Pennsylvania Avenue plan. He told of the Commission's concern that the statue was too small for the large stone slabs and that the lettering would best be much smaller, in any event. He mentioned that the Commission would even consider an equestrian statue in the interest of increasing the scale of that element. Mr. Harrison said that neither the exact design for the statue, nor the sculptor had been selected. The Chairman suggested that the sculpture should dictate the actual design of the panels behind and that the Commission would hope to work with the designers from the very inception of the statue's exact form. Mr. Harrison pledged cooperation with all of the points mentioned, and said that he would look forward to the Commission's continued interest as these elements were further studied. EXHIBIT 3.

B. National Park Service, National Capital Parks

1. Constitution Gardens, 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W. The project was represented by Messers John Townsley and Leroy Rowell of the Park Service, and Messers Nathaniel Owings, David Childs, George Dickie, and Richard Giegengack of the architects, Skidmore, Owings & Merrill. Mr. Henry Arnold, a landscape consultant, was also present. Mr. Owings presented the project to the Commission, telling, in detail, how the project had been refined to conform with the Commission's previous advice. The members questioned the need for the visitor's center-cafeteria at this location and were told by Mr. Townsley that the Park Service had been forced to abandon plans for a Washington Monument Visitor's Center and that the proposed facility would serve the whole west end of the Mall. The Chairman told of the Commission's concern over a circular drive to the building, suggesting that it could be disruptive to this area of the Mall and would be better eliminated. Mr. Owings said that he felt this would be possible, and the project was approved with that proviso. EXHIBIT 4.

2. Peter Muhlenberg Memorial, 36th and Ellicott Streets, N.W. The project was represented by Mr. Robert Romanowski of the National Park Service. The Chairman told of the Commission's disapproval of the project and hopes that it could be redesigned in a less directional manner. The Commission felt that the bas-relief and backup wall would be better eliminated in that regard and that the children's story garden feature should be eliminated as well. Mr. Romanowski agreed to the additional study. EXHIBIT 5.

C. D.C. Government, Department of General Services

1. New D.C. Courthouse Facility, Indiana Avenue and C Street, N.W., and 6th Street and Municipal Center. The District Government was represented by Messers C. R. Pavlick, Mike Heiserman, and A. Batista. The Courts were represented by Chief Judge Green and Mr. A. M. Malech. Architects were Messers Gyo Obata and Jim Hemelsin of HOK and Mr. Leroy Campbell of Sultan and Campbell with Mr. George Petticord, Jr. of the Mills and Petticord Partnership. Mr. Obata, the designer, made a brief presentation discussing the difficult sloping site and the complex program of the project. The Chairman told of the Commission's disapproval of the project. The Commission was recommending restudy with an effort at harmonizing more closely with the Pennsylvania Avenue Plan and attempting a more symmetrical relationship with the existing Municipal Center Building. Specifically it was recommended that the angled wall along Indiana Avenue be eliminated by either stepping the building back or ending it before the right-of-way for Indiana Avenue began at the west end of the site. The Chairman expressed the Commission's view that Indiana Avenue could be closed to automobile traffic if the visual axis was retained - this would make a larger site - also increasing the opportunity for symmetry. The project representatives agreed to contact the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation and the National Capital Planning Commission on the matter and to be back in touch with the Commission. EXHIBIT 6.

2. Kenilworth-Parkside Recreation Center, Phase II Development, 40th and Anacostia Avenue, N.E. The project was represented by Mr. C. R. Pavlick of the District Department of General Services. The Chairman expressed the Commission's approval of this project. EXHIBIT 7.

D. D.C. Government, Department of Economic Development

Shipstead-Luce Act

S.L. 74-56, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., National Academy of Sciences Building, Alterations. The project was represented by Messers Donald Minnix and Hugh Clagett. After some general discussion about the scope of the project and being assured that the parking proposed was a

decrease and well-screened, the Commission approved the project.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 1:55 p.m.

Signed,

Charles H. Atherton
Secretary

May 2, 1974

Dear Mr. Press:

At its meeting on March 17, 1974, the Commission of Fine Arts concurred in the appointments of Constance Green, Nicholas Satterlee, and Robert Plavnick as members of the Joint Committee on Landmarks.

Sincerely yours,

SIGNED

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

The Honorable William Press
Chairman
National Capital Planning Commission
1325 G Street, N.W.
Washiggton, D.C. 20005

EXHIBIT 1.

JCB/po

25 March, 1974

Dear Mrs. Brooks,

I am writing to report the approval by the Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on March 20, 1974, of the designs for the medal commemorating the International Exposition on Environment in Spokane, Washington.

While there were mixed feelings on the quality of the design, the consensus was favorable due to the short duration of the event marked by the medal.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Hon. Mary Brooks
Director of the Mint
Room 2064, Bureau of the Mint
Washington, D.C. 20220

JCB/CHA:nl

Exhibit 2.

25 March, 1974

Dear General Adams,

We were happy to have the opportunity to view preliminary designs for the Pershing Memorial at our meeting on March 20, 1974.

As you know from the discussion during the presentation, our primary concern is with the massive scale of the two stone walls and the accompanying lettering. We feel, however, that the architect, Mr. Harrison, had a valid point in that it is difficult to determine the appropriate size and scale without first making a mockup of the two walls. To this end we will be glad to work with the architect in such a study.

Apart from the actual size of the walls, there still is, in our opinion, a problem of relative apparent size between the walls and the statue, which was shown to be eight or nine feet high. The height of the statue should remain open, with final determination to be made at the time the mockup is studied.

Other elements of the design, including siting, general orientation, and landscaping, are entirely acceptable, and are approved.

The next meeting of the Commission is scheduled for April 17, and we will be happy to consider the matter further at that time.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

JCB/CHA:nl

Major General A. V. Adams, Secretary
American Battle Monuments Commission
Room 2067, Tempo A Building
Washington, D.C. 20315

EXHIBIT 3

25 March 1974

Dear Mr. Fish,

We are happy to report our approval of revised preliminary landscape plans for the Constitution Gardens which were presented at the Commission's meeting on March 20, 1974.

The essential simplicity of the design complements the great formal composition of the Reflecting Pool and surrounding areas, and answers virtually all of our questions resulting from the previous presentations.

One element did seem out of keeping with the overall simplicity, and that was the semicircular drive leading up to the pavillion adjacent to 17th Street. We feel the roadway should be eliminated entirely, limiting access to the building to pedestrian circulation.

We would also like to emphasize the need for selection of the largest available plant material. The shade trees especially should be well-developed. It would be regrettable if, by the time of the Bicentennial, there were nothing more than a field of immature 3" saplings to greet the visitors to this major part of the Mall and West Potomac Park.

It is understood, of course, that further detailed studies, particularly those of any structure, will be presented to the Commission for review.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. Manus J. Fish, Jr.
Director, National Capitol Parks
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C.

JCB/CHA:wab

EXHIBIT 1

25 March, 1974

Mr. Richard L. Stanton
Associate Director, Cooperative Activities
National Capital Parks
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242'

Dear Mr. Stanton,

The Commission of Fine Arts, at its meeting on March 20, 1974, reviewed a preliminary design for the Peter Muhlenberg Memorial at Connecticut Avenue and Ellicott Street, N.W.

There were a number of elements the Commission objected to, but rather than go into detail on each one, let me cite our chief objection, which is the lack of recognition of the geometry of the site. The memorial should be open to view and relate to all the surrounding streets, not merely front on Connecticut Avenue. As presently sited, it shuts itself off to the other views, particularly from 36th Street and St. Paul's Lutheran Church. As the relation to the church is important, the approach from 36th Street should at least be equal to that of Connecticut Avenue.

The Commission would like to suggest that a restudy of the design include consideration of a low circular or elliptical pool as the principal element. Textual material could be inscribed on the rim, eliminating the need for the fourteen-foot high wall. The remaining sculptural element might be retained as a related part of the design, but it will take considerable study to find a suitable location.

We also see no need for a heavily landscaped children's story garden, but rather prefer a simple umbrella of shade trees with perhaps a bench or two informally sited.

EXHIBIT 5.

All pump equipment should be located below grade.

The Commission will be meeting next on April 17, 1974, and we will be happy to consider new studies at that time.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

JCB/CHA:nl

25 March, 1974

Dear Col. Starobin,

I am writing to report the actions of the Commission of Fine Arts on March 20, 1974 regarding the preliminary plans for the new District of Columbia Superior Courthouse.

We have some serious questions regarding the design.

Apparently the architects have been working under conflicting guidelines regarding the right-of-way on Indiana Avenue and the building setback line. Since the original guidelines were set, new plans have been prepared by the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation for the right-of-way of Indiana Avenue just west of the site. The building setback line on the south side of the avenue has been moved about 100 feet. This new dimension produces an extremely awkward situation at the intersection of Indiana Avenue and Sixth Street.

The Commission recommends the court plans be realigned to the rectangular grid, which will necessitate extending beyond the existing building line into the present right-of-way of the avenue. This makes sense in a number of ways. Since Indiana Avenue is essentially going to be closed, at least to all vehicular traffic, there is no need for this short stretch of diagonal street to remain. It leads nowhere except into a wall. Also the counterpart of the avenue on the east side of the East Administration Building was removed some time ago to accommodate the Labor Department Building, so removal of this section of the avenue will result in a balanced setting for the Court with John Marshall Place providing the main axis for the composition around the Old Court House. Realigning the plan to the rectangular grid will also make more sense in the building plans and actual construction. Certainly the resulting geometry is simple and therefore economical.

EXHIBIT 6.

Our other questions center around the design itself. First of all is the massing, which should balance in apparent bulk the D.C. Municipal Building across John Marshall Place. The design, in its articulation of walls, openings, projections, and bays, should also be quieter, more dignified and serene, to blend better in the context of the other monumental buildings nearby.

I think the first step in restudying this project would be to iron out the differences in lines guiding the architect on siting the building.

We will be happy to participate to whatever extent is necessary in meeting with all agencies involved in the review process. Please let us know if and when such meetings can be arranged. Our next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 1974.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Lt. Col. Sam D. Starobin, Director
D.C. Department of General Services
613 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

JCB/CHA:nl

25 March, 1974

Dear Mr. Rohwer,

I am writing to report that the Commission of Fine Arts approved at its meeting on March 20, 1974 the designs for Phase II of the Kenilworth-Parkside Recreation Center.

It is hoped that the tree planting can be less formal in order to tie in with the Park Service's planting in the adjacent camp grounds. Also, is an eleven-foot high chain fence really necessary to separate what are essentially two playgrounds? Both are used by the same children, and it seems unnecessary to erect an artificial barricade in the midst of recreation grounds.

Sincerely yours,

J. Carter Brown
Chairman

Mr. W. Dan Rowher
Architect-Engineer Liason Officer
D.C. Department of General Services
613 G Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

JCB/CHA:nl

EXHIBIT 7.

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

APPENDIX 1, 20 March, 1974
11 March, 1974

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
SL 74-43	3436 17th Street, N.W. Rock Creek Park Condominiums, Inc.	Three-story apartments, facing Rock Creek Park.
ACTION:	Approved as a preliminary design. Request submission of detailed landscaping plans. 3/6/74	
44	26th Street between M Street & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Oliver T. Carr	Six-story office building with first floor commercial space and two basement garage levels.
ACTION:	Insufficient information for any comment on architectural design. No objection to general massing, height, or bulk. Question courtyard opening's relation to diagonal of Pennsylvania Avenue. 2/27/74	
45	101 Louisiana Avenue, N.W. United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners Resubmission refer to SL 74-35	Seven levels of open deck parking for 410 cars on site of existing parking lot; four levels of office space on east end of existing Headquarters Building.
ACTION:	Disapproved. Returned for further study of elevation facing Louisiana Avenue. 3/6/74	
47	2144 F Street, N.W. Pasquale Fiordelise	Second floor addition.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 2/27/74	
48	2500 Calvert Street, N.W. Shoreham Hotel	New canopy fascia.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 2/27/74	
49	2500 Calvert Street, N.W. Shoreham Hotel	Individual letters on canopy.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 2/27/74	
50	2555 M Street, N.W. Savage Fogarty Company, Inc.	2 - 4' x 6' single-faced signs (1/2" plywood).
ACTION:	Disapproved. Recommend sign be lowered; top of sign to line up with construction barricade. 2/27	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE SHIPSTEAD-LUCE ACT

APPENDIX 1, 20 March, 1974
11 March, 1974

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
SL 74-51	400 New Jersey Avenue, N.W. J.E.H. Systems	New hotel (resubmission refer to SL 74-33).
ACTION:	Approved as preliminary design. Request submission of working drawings. 2/27/74	
52	2201 Virginia Avenue, N.W. Wayside Enterprizes	42" x 48" sign flat against building (resubmission refer to SL 74-41).
ACTION:	Issue permit. Sign approved for a location on the corner of Virginia Avenue and 22nd Street. Bottom of sign to match sill height of first floor windows. 2/22/74	
53	5200 27th Street, N.W. R. H. & J. E. Fleming	Erect wood walk 4' wide x 28' long instead of concrete walk as pre previously approved plans (resubmission refer to SL 73-49).
ACTION:	Issue permit. 2/25/74	
54	101 Louisiana Avenue, N.W. United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners Resubmission refer to SL 74-45	Seven levels of open deck parking for 410 cars on site of existing parking lot; four levels of office space on east end of existing Headquarters Building.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 3/7/74	
55	809 Connecticut Avenue, N.W. Thomas Cooke Company	Sign.
ACTION:	Issue permit. 3/4/74	

REPORT OF ACTIONS TAKEN ON THE OLD GEORGETOWN ACT

APPENDIX 2, 20 March, 1974
11 March, 1974

NO.	ADDRESS AND OWNER	PROJECT
OG 74-98	1015 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. Kodak	Removing old signs on side of building and installing new sign on side of building, plaque on front of building.

ACTION: Do not issue permit. Internally illuminated signs not recommended in Georgetown historic district. Suggest doorside plaques or free-standing letters mounted on brick. 3/6/74

101	3026 Q Street, N.W. Reid A. Dunn	Subdivide property. Remodel 3026 Q Street. Remodel and add to new house at 3026 1/2 Q Street created by subdivision.

ACTION: Do not issue permit. No objection to new party wall or proposed addition. Garage opening for 3026 not recommended. Tower roof not recommended. Suggest single light casement sash for 3026 1/2 and new addition. Question alignment of porch and proposed garage opening on 3026 1/2; perhaps a surface parking solution can be found. 2/27/74

103	3611 Prospect Street, N.W. Historic Georgetown, Inc.	Install new handrail.

ACTION: Issue permit. 3/6/74

104	3033 West Lane Keys Hollis B. Chenery	Remove garage doors and replace with bay window. (resubmission refer to OG 74-96).

ACTION: Issue permit for scheme "A". 3/6/74